

For: Kimberly Topper  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21)  
Food and Drug Administration  
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I am writing this letter to simply furnish you with relevant data in as far as I have experienced with the use of Oxycontin for treatment of chronic pain. I am a 47 year old female, a patient of Dr. Abbey Strauss, in Boca Raton, Florida, and have been using Oxycontin for the past four years with great success. To quote from my most recent MRI, (C5-6) "The disk herniation extends 2-3mm posteriorly into the spinal canal and indents the thecal sac and there is evidence of mild cord compression and moderate spinal stenosis. Bilateral moderate foraminal narrowing is noted as well."

For the sake of time, I will shorten my experience prior to treatment with Dr. Strauss. I went to three different doctors, all surgeons. All three wanted to perform immediate surgery. I was told that the only treatment available was surgery and the success rate was something which none of the doctors were willing to talk to me about. Due to the fact that I was told that, "doctors supposedly always know best", I set the date for my surgery. Thank God that I spoke to many people just to research my options prior to the surgery. First of all, I was told by the surgeon to immediately stop taking any and all pain medication except for over the counter (i.e. Tylenol, Advil). This led me to my living in excruciating pain. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't get comfortable. The quality of my life was awful. I am a mother, a wife, and I take my responsibilities very seriously. I had hobbies. I enjoyed many things. I would say that on a scale of 1 to 10 my existence was at the lowest end.

Very fortunately, I was introduced, at that time, to Dr. Strauss and thank God to my many friends and family who urged me not to go forward with this surgery and therefore, I began taking Oxycontin. All I can say is that I truly feel this medication has given me back the quality of life I once knew. I go through my daily routine pain free and perfectly focused on my activities. I am quite dismayed, to put it mildly, when I read in the papers and hear on the news the horrendous press that has been given to this medication which has helped me so much. I realize that there will always be people who abuse the system and there is no way we can get rid of this situation, but I stress to you to please hear my testimony that this medication, when used properly, and under a doctors supervision, is outstanding.

As you notice, I have omitted stating my name, although you can read it from my fax, I would rather it not be used due to the targets I understand that people are who take this medication. Thank you very much for your time and if you feel it necessary you may contact me through my numbers provided herein.